

MAGOFFIN HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

El Paso, Texas

Pre-Visit Guide

Grade 7

Overview: The Magoffins of El Paso

The family of Joseph and Octavia Magoffin had a profound impact in the growth and development of early El Paso. In this lesson, students learn about the Magoffin family during the Civil War era through primary source military documents. They will explore the importance of James Wiley (J.W.) Magoffin's post-war pardon to the family legacy and the development of early El Paso.

Social Studies TEKS

(5) History. The student understands how events and issues shaped the history of Texas during the Civil War and Reconstruction. The student is expected to:

(B) analyze the political, economic, and social effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas.

(6) History. The student understands how individuals, events, and issues shaped the history of Texas from Reconstruction through the beginning of the 20th century. The student is expected to:

(C) identify significant individuals, events, and issues from Reconstruction through the beginning of the 20th century, including the effects of the growth of railroads and the contributions of James Hogg.

(21) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology.

The student is expected to:

(A) differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as computer software, databases, media and news services, biographies, interviews, and artifacts to acquire information about Texas;

(B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions;

(C) organize and interpret information from outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps;

(D) identify points of view from the historical context surrounding an event and the frame of reference that influenced the participants;

(E) support a point of view on a social studies issue or event;

Materials

- Historical images for display/distribution
- **Magoffin's Military Movement** activity resources
- **Post-War Pardon** activity resources

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Vocabulary

- **A.C.S.:** *Armies of the Confederate States* abbreviation
- **amnesty:** an official pardon or forgiveness for wrongdoings. The word *amnesty* shares the Greek root with the word *amnesia*, meaning loss of memory or forgetfulness.
- **C.S.A.:** *Confederate States of America* abbreviation
- **legacy:** something handed down (like an inheritance) from someone in the past
- **parole:** release of a prisoner on the promise of good behavior
- **subsistence department:** military department during the Civil War responsible for securing all food and supplies for troops

Historical Context

J.W. Magoffin and his two sons, Joseph and Samuel, served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Prior to the war, J.W. had been a successful trader and merchant in west Texas and Mexico. He had set up a mercantile (general store) in Magoffinsville, Texas, an area that would later become part of El Paso. During the war, J.W. Magoffin & Co. provided the Confederate troops with supplies. Joseph served as an officer in the Subsistence Department, equipping troops in east Texas and Louisiana.

After the war, J.W. attempted to return to his land and business in El Paso in May 1866 only to discover that a U.S. Marshal had seized, split, and sold his property to five individuals. As a former Confederate officer, J.W. Magoffin was told that the general amnesty (as a member of the losing army) did not apply to him. Instead, he had to apply for a formal pardon from the president of the United States. He applied and was approved in September 1867. Only with this pardon were his civil rights and land restored to him.

Upon J.W.'s death in 1868, his son Joseph moved with his family to El Paso to claim his land inheritance. Joseph Magoffin and his family gained wealth and influence in early El Paso through the sale of holdings which included 1,280 acres, (including Magoffinsville and the future site of the Magoffin home in the El Paso area), over 600 acres southeast of El Paso, and acreage in Canutillo and in Presidio County.

In the 1870s through the 1890s, Joseph served as a civic leader at the municipal, county, and federal levels. He also supported bringing the railroads to El Paso, which is considered to be the single most impactful development on the history of the city. The coming of the railroads caused a boom in population, industry, and politics. Almost every rail company had to buy land from Magoffin to build their lines.

Joseph's wife, Octavia, was a prominent social and charity leader in early El Paso. When she died, the El Paso Herald stated that she was "a most charitable woman, quiet, capable, and self sacrificing.... [H]er work for humanity knew no barriers of race or creed."

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Activity: At Home with the Magoffins

10 minutes

- Display/distribute the **invoice document image**. Read the document aloud if students have trouble deciphering the cursive writing.
- Give students five minutes at the beginning of the lesson to read the document and write answers to these questions. Share responses as a class.
 - To whom is this document addressed? [J.W. Magoffin]
 - What supply is being ordered? [four and a half tons of hay]
 - When was the order submitted? [June 28, 1862]
 - How much does the supply cost? What is the total cost of the order? [\$20 per ton/ total \$90]
 - What can be inferred from the top left strikethrough of “United” and the bottom right strikethrough of “U.S.” (replaced with “Confederate” and “C.S.”)? [Answers will vary but may include that the Confederate States army was reusing a U.S. order form; the Magoffins were involved in supplying the Confederate army]

Primary Source Activity: Magoffin’s Military Movements

20 minutes

- Divide the class into pairs or small groups.
- Explain that in this activity, they will study primary source documents to build a timeline of Joseph Magoffin’s military rank and his movements during the Civil War. They will also circle those locations on a map.
- Display/distribute the **military movements documents 1-4**, the **Texas in the Civil War map**, and the **activity worksheet**. Tell students that the numbers at the top of the written documents does not indicate the correct chronological order. [Unless cited otherwise, all military documents were found on the website Fold3.com.]

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Answer Key

| Document Order | Date | What is the content of the document? | What was Magoffin's rank at this time? | What locations are mentioned? |
|----------------|---------------|---|--|---|
| 3 | Sept. 1862 | orders to go to Marshall, Tx. | captain | San Antonio, Tx. |
| 1 | Oct. 1862 | mileage invoice | captain | Marshall, Tx. |
| 2 | May-Oct. 1864 | list of appointed Subsistence Dept agents | none given | Shreveport, La. |
| 4 | Aug. 1865 | promise not to serve in or aid Confederate Army after the Civil War | Major A. C. S. | residing in St. Louis, Mo.; paroled in San Antonio, Tx. |

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Primary Source Activity: A Post-War Pardon

25 minutes

- Divide the class into pairs or small groups.
- Display/distribute **Magoffin's request for pardon letter**, the **pardon document 4939**, and the **activity worksheet**. Explain that in this letter, Magoffin refers to himself in the third person and as "the Petitioner." Read the document aloud if students have trouble deciphering the cursive writing.
- Have students study the documents to answer the worksheet questions. Share responses when complete.
- To further the discussion, ask students to provide specific examples of how the history of El Paso might have been different if J.W. Magoffin had not received a pardon.

Answer Key

Request for Pardon Letter

- To whom is Magoffin writing? [president]
- What is the date of the request for pardon? [September 3, 1867]
- In the first line of the letter, how does Magoffin refer to himself? [as "the Petitioner"]
- How did Magoffin come to be in the Confederate States army? [rebel forces took over El Paso, he was involuntarily required to take an oath to the Confederate government]
- What value does Magoffin place on his property at the time of the letter? [less than \$20,000]
- What does he say prevents him from participating in any further war activities? [his age, 67]
- What appointment and service does Magoffin cite to prove his loyalty to the United States after the war? [He was appointed by Texas governor Hamilton to reorganize the community of El Paso and to appoint Justices of the Peace and other civic officers.]

Document 4939

- What is the date of this document? [Sept. 7, 1867]
- How long did Magoffin have to wait to hear whether he had received a pardon? [Four days, based on the dates of both documents.]

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Assessment

Evaluate student participation in class discussion and worksheet answers for completeness and understanding.

Take-home Extension

Distribute **Magoffin Family KWL charts**. Tell students to complete the K and W columns of the chart and bring it back to class. They will complete the chart as a Post-Visit activity.

Additional Resources & Extensions

The Portal to Texas History

<https://texashistory.unt.edu>

The Handbook of Texas Online

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook>

Library of Congress

<https://loc.gov>

Urban Plan—An Online Game

Build a city, make it grow, and try to get the highest population.

<http://www.kidsgamehouse.com/games/urban-plan>

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Resource Image: Portrait of Joseph Magoffin

Portrait of Joseph Magoffin, c1870s. Courtesy of Magoffin Home State Historic Site.



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Resource Image: Bird's Eye View Map of El Paso

Augustus Koch (1840–?). *Bird's Eye View of El Paso, El Paso County Texas*, 1886. Lithograph, 20 x 30 in. Lithographer unknown.



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Resource Timeline: Joseph Magoffin

Images accessed digitally at Library of Congress (www.loc.gov). Octavia's portrait courtesy of Magoffin Home State Historic Site.



1845

- Lexington, Kentucky
- Joseph and his brother, Samuel, moved to Lexington with their father and attended school there.



1855

- St. Louis, Missouri
- Joseph attended and graduated high school in St. Louis.



1855

- Magoffinsville, Texas (near El Paso and Franklin, Texas)
- After graduating, Joseph moved to Magoffinsville to work at his father's mercantile.



1862

- Marshall, Texas
- While serving in the Confederate Army, Joseph supplied troops in east Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas from his post in Marshall.



1863

- Houston, Texas
- Joseph met his future wife, Octavia McGreal, in Houston between 1862 and 1864 while serving in the army.



1868

- El Paso, Texas
- Joseph and his family moved to El Paso after his father's death to take over the family landholdings.

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Primary Source Activity: Invoice Document

Confederate No. 12

The ~~United~~ States, To *J. M. Magoffin & Co* Dr.

| Date of purchase. | | DOLLARS. | CENTS. |
|--------------------------|---|----------|--------|
| <i>1862 June 23.</i> | <i>For Four Tons and one half of Hay at the Rate of Twenty Dollars per Ton \$ 90 00</i> | | |
| | | | |

I certify that the above account is correct and just, and that the articles have been accounted for on my property return for the quarter ending on the *30* of *June* 186*2*

J. D. Smith Capt.
7th M. M. S. Co. Quartermaster.

Received at *Marshall Texas*, the *31st* of *October*, 186*2*
of *Exp't. J. M. Magoffin & Co.* Quartermaster *U. S.*
Army, *Ninety* dollars and _____ cents,
in full of the above account.

J. M. Magoffin & Co.

[SIGNED IN DUPLICATE.]

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Primary Source Activity: Magoffin's Military Movements Document 1

The Confederate States
to
Capt Jos Magoffin Jr.

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------|-------|
| 1862 | For | | |
| Marshall Texas | Mileage from San Antonio | | |
| Oct 27 th | Brewer County to Marshall Harrison | | |
| | To Texas being five hundred Miles | | |
| | at Ten Cents | per Mile | 50 00 |

I certify, on honor, that the above is correct and just; that I performed the journey, and under the Order hereto annexed, and not returning from leave of absence, to the Station or Troops I had left; that I have not been furnished with public transportation, nor received in lieu thereof, for any part of the route.

Jos Magoffin
Capt a.c.s. 1st Reg. a.s.M.
103rd Battalion.

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Primary Source Activity: Magoffin's Military Movements Document 2

(CONFEDERATE.)

M.

Joe Magoffin.
Capt. Sub. Dept

Appears on a

List

of regularly appointed Officers and Agents of the
Subsistence Department, Trans-Mississippi De-
partment.

List dated *Shreveport*
Feb. 20, 186*5*

Station *Majors' Brig.*

Appointed *May 1/64.*

To rank _____, 186

By whom appointed *Gen. E. R. Smith*

Condition of bond *Four id. to Gen. S.*

Remarks: *Oct. 28/64. not re-
turned.*

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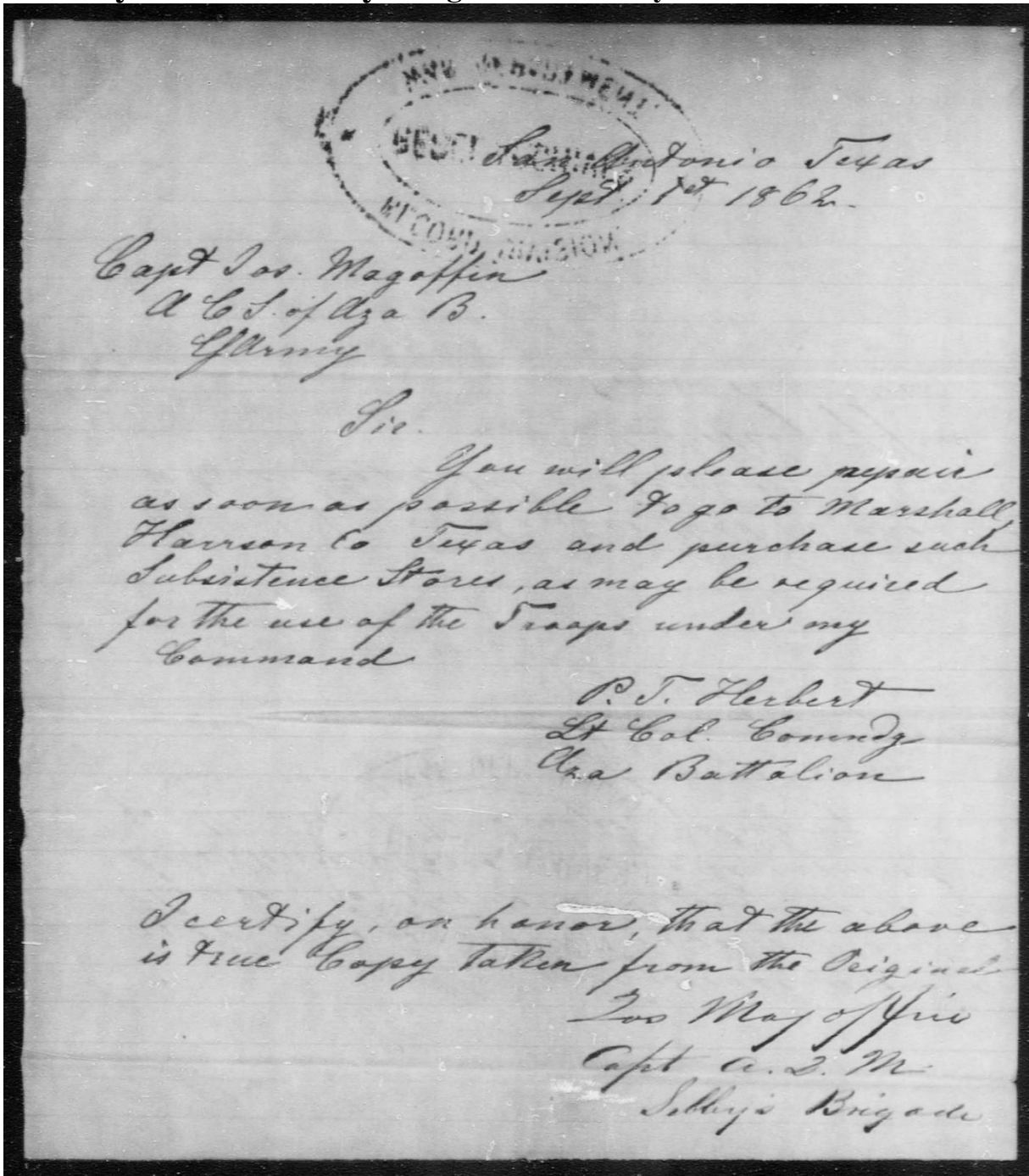
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Primary Source Activity: Magoffin's Military Movements Document 3



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Primary Source Activity: Magoffin's Military Movements Document 4

No. *1*

I, the undersigned, Prisoner of War, belonging to the Army of the Trans-Mississippi Department, having been surrendered by General E. Kirby Smith, C. S. A., Commanding said Department, to Major General E. R. S. Canby, U. S. A., Commanding Army and Division of West Mississippi, do hereby give my solemn PAROLE OF HONOR, that I will not hereafter serve in the Armies of the Confederate States, or in any military capacity whatever, against the United States of America, or render aid to the enemies of the latter, until properly exchanged in such manner as shall be mutually approved by the respective authorities.

Residence *St. Louis, Mo.*

Done at *San Antonio, Tex.*

this *14* day of *Aug* 1865.

Approved: *Los Magoffin May 1865*

..... C. S. A. }
Commissioners.
..... U. S. A. }

The above named officer will not be disturbed by the United States Authorities, as long as he observes his parole, and the laws in force where he resides.

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Primary Source Map: Texas in the Civil War



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Primary Source Activity: Request for Post-War Pardon letter, page 1

Washington D.C.
Sept. 3^d 1867.

To his Excellency
The President

Your Petitioner, James W. Magoffin a resident of El Paso county Texas, would respectfully state that he is now about sixty seven years old and up to the time of the capture of Ft. Bliss in said El Paso county Texas, located upon his lands and whereat he resided with his family, by the Confederate troops in the year 1861, he was a loyal citizen of the United States. That upon the capture of that place he was compelled by superior rebel force, in his presence and in the occupancy of that State and County, to yield involuntary submission to their authority and to take the oath of fealty to the Confederate Government which they required.

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Primary Source Activity: Request for Post-War Pardon letter, page 2

Your Petitioner would further state that after the close of the rebellion he renewed his allegiance to the government of the U. States and took the prescribed oath of Amnesty and still continues to reside at El Paso. Your Petitioner would further state that his property does not amount in value to twenty thousand dollars, and his age has precluded him from taking any active part in the war.

After the war ceased and the authority of the Federal Government was resumed in Texas, such was the confidence in his loyalty to the U. States, that your Petitioner was authorized, and commissioned by the Governor of Texas (Gov. Hamilton) as his representative to reorganize the county of El Paso, and restore it to all its civil relations for which purpose he had plenary authority in the name of the Governor to appoint loyal Justices of the Peace, and all civil officers as

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Primary Source Activity: Request for Post-War Pardon letter, page 3

contemplated by the laws and necessary to the end.
This work was successfully ~~executed~~ ^{succeded} by your
Petitioner and to the satisfaction of the people, and
the loyal authorities of Texas.

Notwithstanding all these circumstances your
Petitioner is advised that a pardon is necessary
to restore him to his property rights - Whereupon
he humbly prays your Excellency to grant him
such pardon.

J. W. Magoffin

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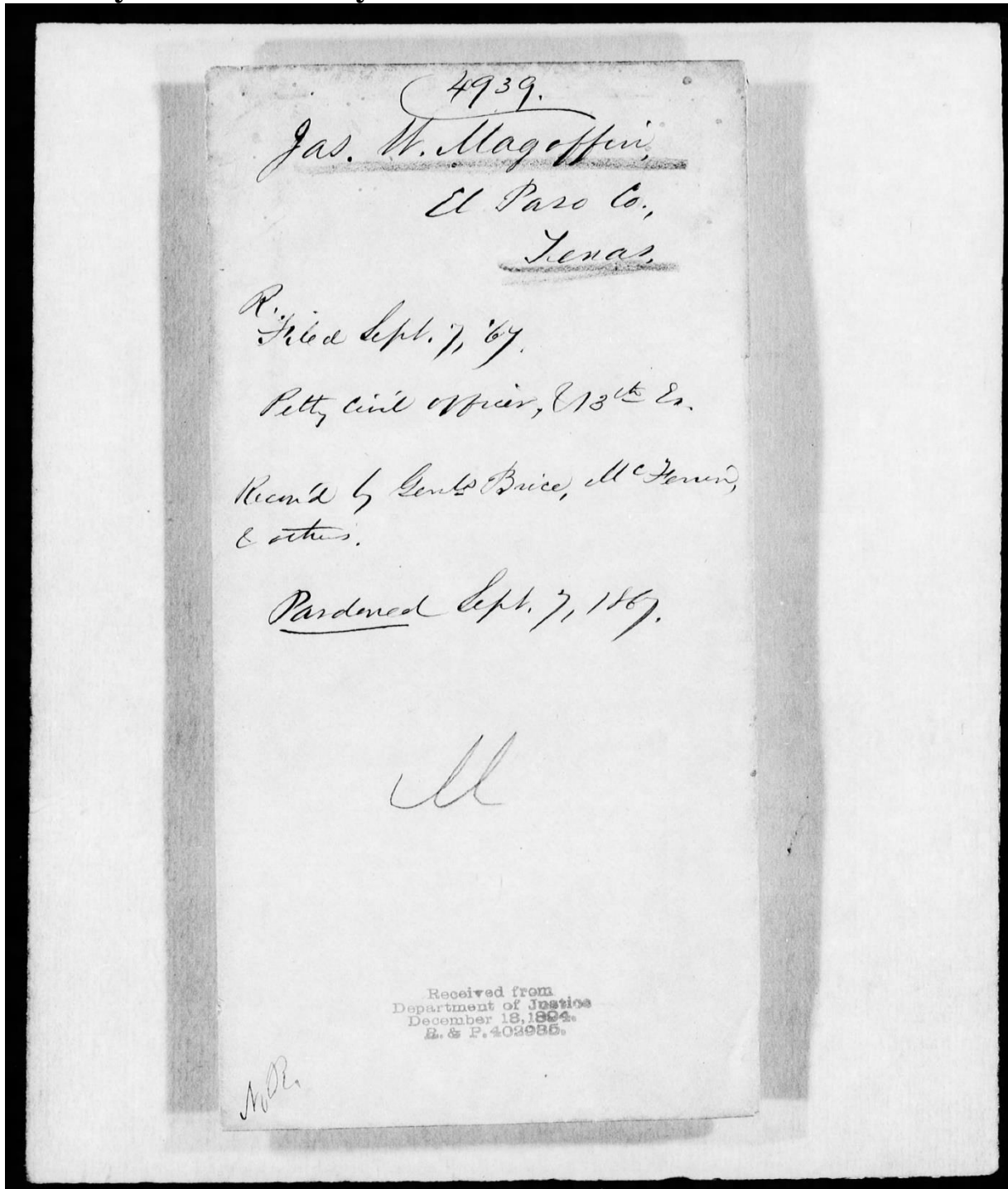
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Primary Source Activity: Pardon Document 4939



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Activity: Magoffin's Military Movements

Analyze the primary source documents 1-4 to complete the organizer by listing the documents in chronological order and answering the questions. Then, circle the locations mentioned in the documents on the Texas in the Civil War map.

| Document Order | Date | What is the content of the document? | What was Magoffin's rank at this time? | What locations are mentioned? |
|----------------|------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

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Activity: A Post-War Pardon

Read Magoffin's request for pardon letter and document 4939 to answer the questions.

Request for Pardon Letter

To whom is Magoffin writing?

What is the date of the request for pardon?

In the first line of the letter, how does Magoffin refer to himself?

How did Magoffin come to be in the Confederate States army?

What value does Magoffin place on his property at the time of the letter?

What does he say prevents him from participating in any further war activities?

What appointment and service does Magoffin cite to prove his loyalty to the United States after the war?

Document 4939

What is the date of this document?

How long did Magoffin have to wait to hear whether he had received a pardon?

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Magoffin Family KWL Chart

| KNOW | WANT TO KNOW | LEARNED |
|------|--------------|---------|
| | | |

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Site Visit Recommendations

- Complete the pre-visit lesson or other introductory lessons prior to your field trip.
- Divide students into small groups, each with an adult chaperone.
- Make sure students bring pencils. Pens and markers are not allowed in the exhibits.

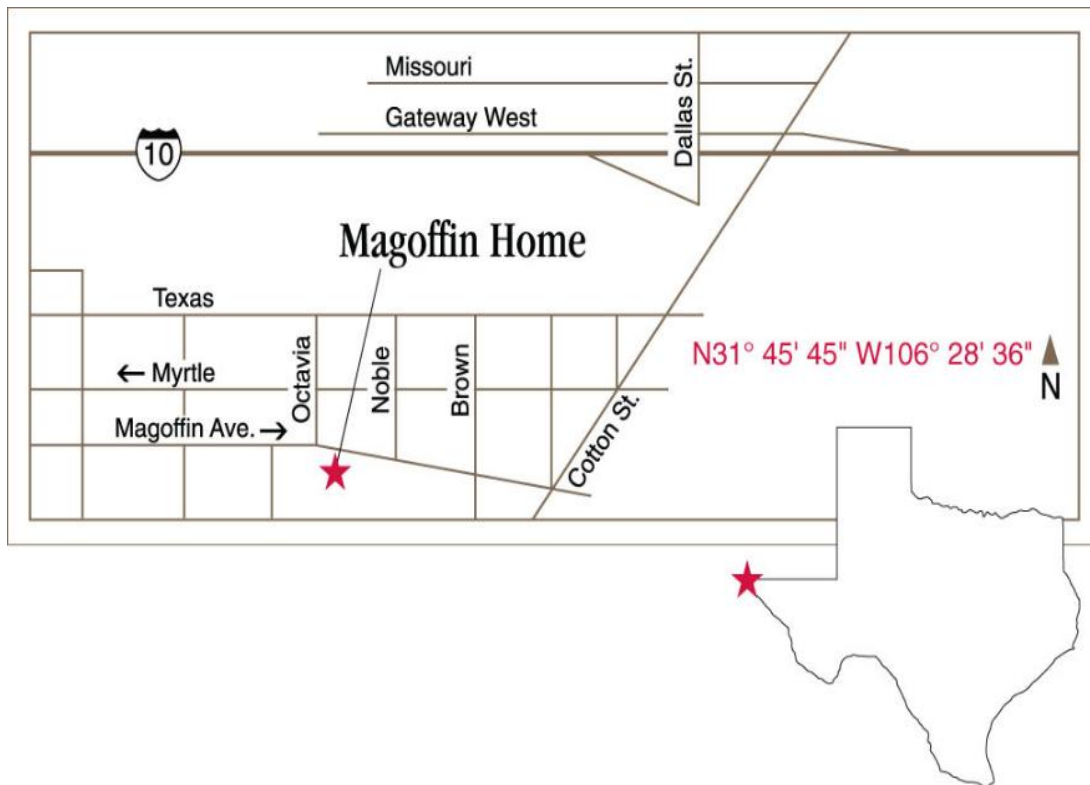
Information

To schedule a site visit field trip for your students, please call 915-533-5147.

For admission prices and hours of operation, please visit us online at <http://visitmagoffinhome.com>.

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